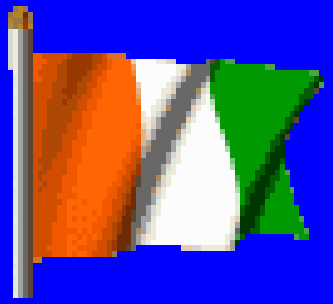
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

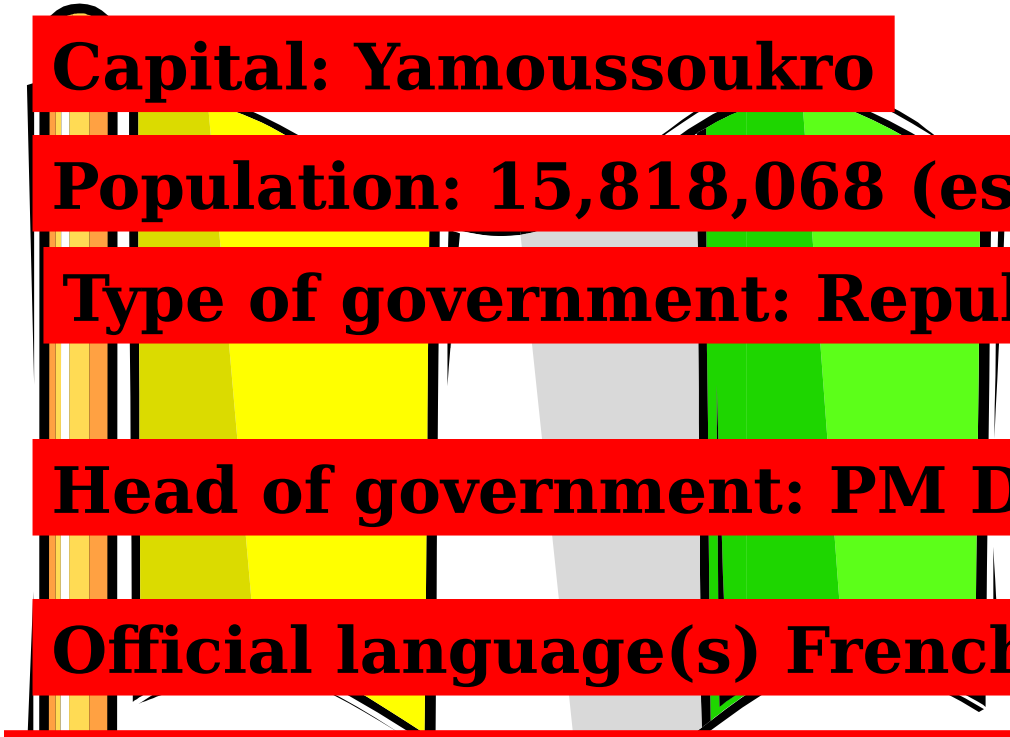


COTE D' IVOIRE

(Republique de Cote

© 1988-1999 Microsoft and/or its suppliers. All rights reserved.

BACKGROUND



Full Name: Republic of Cote D’Ivoire

Capital: Yamoussoukro

Population: 15,818,068 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Daniel Duncan

Official language(s) French, Dioula

Economy: Agricultural-based

Religions: Islam (60%), Christian (22%), Indigenous (18%)

TRAVEL

INFORMATION

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Abidjan

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: 5 Rue Jesse Owens, Abidjan
Tel: 225-2021-4881/0979 FAX: 225-2022-3259

Transportation: Public transportation:Fair.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Automobile accidents are one of the greatest threats to the well-being of Americans in Cote d'Ivoire. Night driving is particularly hazardous due to poorly lit roads and vehicles. Direct or indirect requests for bribes from the police and other

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice. Such personnel should have military ID card and leave order, regular passport and current immunization record and should contact USDAO upon arrival and provide local address, phone number, and length of stay. Visa is not required for holders of US passports for stays of 90 days or less. Stays of more than 90 days require a visa. For official travel no-fee passports are required. Visas are not

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. Proof of yellow fever vaccination is required for all travelers over one year of age. Health card/shot record is required and will be checked at the airport. Immunization card will be checked for current yellow fever stamp.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: 2 cameras, 10 rolls of film, jewelry, portable typewriter (if necessary for work), cigarette lighter, electric razor, record player and records, tobacco products, and 2 qt of liquor.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Tourism facilities in the capital of Abidjan are good; accommodations outside the capital are limited in quality and availability. The ocean currents along the coast are extremely strong and treacherous and result in numerous drownings each year. Reservations are required; advance notice minimum 14 days is advised. Specific requests are required for cancellations. Requester may be charged for reservation not cancelled. Photography is not permitted of military installations, equipment, or personnel; government building; airports; bridges; and POL storage facilities. Bringing official or personal firearms into Cote d'Ivoire is prohibited without advance written permission from the American Embassy and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire. Travelers to Cote d'Ivoire are reminded that anti-malarial

Amembassy operating hours are Mon-Fri, 0800L-1230L and 1330L-1700L. Amembassy observes US and local holidays.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Declare currency. There is no limit on import of foreign currency or traveler's checks. Exports are limited to amount imported less expenses. Imports and exports of CFA francs are limited to CFA 175,000 in travelers checks. Exchange at banks and some large hotels (hotel rates are usually less favorable). Verbal declaration is required on leaving. Adequate records are required for extensive business transaction involving large sums. Exchange rate is based on the exchange rate of the French franc and rate varies. Business fraud stemming from Nigerian scam operations targets foreigners, including Americans, and poses a danger of financial loss and physical harm. Persons contemplating business deals in Cote d'Ivoire with individuals promoting investment in Nigeria, especially the Central Bank of Nigeria or the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, are strongly urged to check with the U.S. Department of Commerce or the U.S. Department of State before providing any information, making financial commitments, or traveling to Cote d'Ivoire.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, heat injuries and industrial pollution.

Availability of medical services: Fair in Abidjan, poor elsewhere.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Cote d'Ivoire. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed

Status of hospitals: Fair to poor.

Health Precautions: AIDS and HIV infection are widespread throughout Cote d'Ivoire. Heterosexual transmission accounts for most HIV infections. Cote d'Ivoire is considered a cholera-infected area. Immunization is not considered effective and is no longer required.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, meningococcal vaccine and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Cote d'Ivoire. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

The tumbu fly is a problem. It lays its eggs on wet fabric outdoors and the larvae penetrate human skin which causes a nonhealing boil. Removal of larvae is the sole cure. Prevent this problem by drying clothes in a dryer and ironing. Avoid damp beach towels. Because of Chloroquine resistant Malaria, Malarial suppressants should be taken for at least four weeks in advance of arrival and four week after departure from Cote d'Ivoire. DoS recommends Mephaquin. The Liberia/Cote d'Ivoire border region is unsettled and potentially dangerous. Travelers to this region and other outer areas of the country may encounter roadblocks, armed military personnel, and vehicle searches. U.S. citizens should avoid political rallies and street demonstrations and maintain security awareness at

CRIME

Criminal Activities: DoS rates the crime rate in Cote d'Ivoire as critical. USDAO recommends official visitors contact Amembassy Regional Security Officer (RSO) upon arrival for a briefing. Street crime of the "grab and run" variety, as well as pickpocketing in crowded areas, are widespread. Armed carjacking, robberies of businesses, and home invasions are on the rise. Travelers displaying jewelry and carrying cameras are especially at risk. Travelers have found it useful to carry limited amounts of cash and only photocopies of key documents. It is particularly dangerous to visit the Treichville, Adjame, Abobo, and the Plateau business districts after dark. The DeGaulle and Houphouet-Boigny bridges, which cross the lagoon in Abidjan, are dangerous areas for pedestrians, even in the daytime. U.S. citizens should use caution when traveling outside Abidjan, especially through the central western region of Cote d'Ivoire, where an increased incidence of crime has been reported. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport

Cote d’Ivoire is strict on: Drugs and firearms.

WEATHER

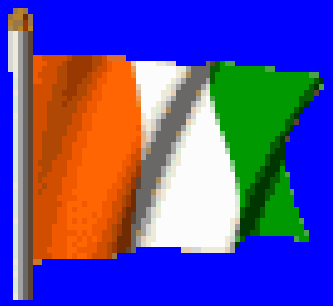
http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: No uniform restrictions.Men: The coolest clothes possible are recommended. Dark lightweight suits are worn to official functions. Women: Shorts are not appropriate except on tennis courts. Abidjan is a "dressy" city in spite of climate. Pants are rarely worn by local women.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



COTE D'IVOIRE